

H.618

Introduced by Representative McCann of Montpelier

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; school counselors

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require school counselors to spend 80 percent of their time providing direct or indirect services to students.

An act relating to school counselors

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) The American School Counselors Association (ASCA) National Model recommends that school counselors spend 80 percent or more of their time in direct and indirect services to students and not more than 20 percent of their time in program planning and school support activities. The direct and indirect activities should come from the duties appropriate to the role of the school counselor rather than inappropriate duties assigned to school counselors as listed in the 2019 ASCA National Model Executive Summary.

1           (2) The 2020 ASCA State of the Profession study found that 39 percent  
2           of school counselors were extremely challenged or challenged by being  
3           assigned inappropriate duties. Requiring school counselors to serve as 504  
4           coordinators, testing coordinators, substitute teachers, and more pulls them  
5           away from direct student counseling services.

6           Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 16 is added to read:

7           § 16. SCHOOL COUNSELORS; DIRECT AND INDIRECT SERVICES

8           (a) As used in this section:

9           (1) “Direct services” means face-to-face or virtual interactions between  
10           school counselors and students, providing developmental service focused on  
11           supporting students’ academic, career, and social and emotional development  
12           in accordance with the Vermont Comprehensive School Counselor  
13           Framework.

14           (2) “Indirect services” means services provided by a school counselor  
15           on behalf of students as a result of a school counselor’s interactions with the  
16           students and others, in accordance with the Vermont Comprehensive School  
17           Counselor Framework.

18           (3) “School counselor” means a person who is employed as a school  
19           counselor in a school setting and who:

20           (A) is licensed as a school counselor pursuant to chapter 51 of this  
21           title by the Standards Board for Professional Educations; or

1           (B) possesses a minimum of a master’s degree in an approved  
2           program in guidance and counseling.

3           (4) “School support services” means services that are not direct or  
4           indirect services as defined in this section and are outside the scope of the  
5           Vermont Comprehensive School Counselor Framework.

6           (b) Each school counselor shall deliver a comprehensive school counseling  
7           program in which the school counselor spends at least 80 percent of the school  
8           counselor’s time providing direct services or indirect services to students and  
9           spends not more than 20 percent of the school counselor’s time on school  
10          support services.

11          Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12          This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.